

4.2 Early Results under the Canada-Japan Economic Framework

To reinforce existing bilateral economic ties and address new and emerging commercial challenges and opportunities, the Canada-Japan Economic Framework aims to reinvigorate the existing government-to-government dialogue, lay the groundwork for future cooperation on priority areas, and emphasize the role of the private sector in guiding future initiatives. The Economic Framework includes a list of 15 priority areas of cooperation: social security, anticompetitive activities, food safety, customs, trade facilitation, transportation, investment, science and technology, information and communication technology, e-commerce, e-government, energy and natural resources, climate change, tax convention, and tourism promotion.

Since the launch of the Canada-Japan Economic Framework in January 2005, significant progress has been achieved by the two countries in a number of the priority areas of cooperation. Of key importance to the Canadian and Japanese governments and private sectors was the conclusion of an agreement on anticompetitive activities and an arrangement on customs cooperation, as well as the signing of an agreement on social security and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on bilateral investment promotion between Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO).¹² In addition to these early accomplishments, steps have been taken to enhance policy dialogue in other priority areas, such as cooperation in food safety.

¹² The Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) is an incorporated administrative agency that works to promote trade and investment between Japan and the rest of the world.